



## **Week 6: The Apostles' Creed**

### **Pastor Derek Vreeland**

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. - Acts 2:42 NRSV*

The Apostles' Creed is the earliest summation of Christian belief which is based on the witness of the Apostles as recorded in the New Testament.

The Apostles' Creed:

1. is the symbol of faith
2. is the DNA of the Christian faith
3. is our pledge of allegiance
4. forms us in the Christian faith
5. gives us the orthodox boundaries of the faith so that we can explore our doubts, wrestle with our questions, and grow in the faith
6. binds us together in Christian unity

**1) I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth**

**2) I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord**

**3) He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary**

"Conceived by the Spirit" means Jesus *is* God. "Born of Mary" means Jesus *is* human. The word we use for this is *incarnation*.

**4) He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried**

*Christ Jesus died for our sins according to the Scriptures.* - 1 Corinthians 15:3

The word we use to describe this is *atonement*.

“Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” - John 1:29

Check out this podcast interview with Laurien Hook:

**Between The Creations**

[Ep. 53: Who Killed Jesus? - Derek Vreeland](#)

**5) He descended to the dead**

**6) On the third day he rose again**

**7) He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father**

**8) He will come to judge the living and the dead**

Let's talk about hell.

There have been various interpretations of hell throughout church history including:

1. Eternal conscious torment (infernalism)
2. Annihilationism (conditional immortality)
3. Christian universalism (*apokatastasis*)

Jewish eschatology divided things up not into *time and eternity*, but into this present evil age and the age to come.

In the age to come there will be people in the kingdom and those outside the kingdom. The experience outside of God's kingdom will be like being in an outer darkness, a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth, a place of isolation, and the torment will not be literal flames, but the experience of exile away from the presence of God.

*There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, in the end, "Thy will be done." All that are in Hell, choose it. Without that self-choice there could be no Hell. No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it. Those who seek find. Those who knock it is opened. — C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce**

#### **9) I believe in the Holy Spirit**

#### **10) I believe in...the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints**

Catholic means *universal*.

#### **11) I believe in...the forgiveness of sins**

#### **12) I believe in...the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting**